

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/518,002

Examiner

David D. Le

Applicant(s)

GUMPOLTSBERGER, GERHARD

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 20 November 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 22-42.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>11/20/06</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the second Office action on the merits of Application No. 10/518,002, filed on 15 December 2004. Claims 22-42 are pending.

Documents

2. The following documents have been received and filed as part of the patent application:
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 12/15/04
 - Foreign Priority Document, received on 12/15/04
 - Replacement Drawings, received on 12/15/06
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 03/28/05
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 06/06/05
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 11/20/06
 - Drawings, received on 11/20/06

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on 20 November 2006. These drawings are approved.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's attorney, Michael J. Bujold, on 08 December 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 23:

Claim 23 has been rewritten as:

--The multi-step reduction gear transmission according to claim 22, wherein the first element of the third planetary gear set is an annulus of the third planetary gear set, the further element of the third planetary gear set is a planet carrier of the third planetary gear set, the first planetary gear set and the second planetary gear set are negative planetary gear sets, and the third planetary gear set is a positive planetary gear set.--

Claim 24:

- Line 3, "Ravigneaux" has been amended as --compound--.

Claim 25:

Claim 25 has been rewritten as:

--The multi-step reduction gear transmission according to claim 22, wherein the first element of the third planetary gear set is a planet carrier of the third planetary gear set, the further element of the third planetary gear set is an annulus of the third planetary gear set, and the first, the second and the third planetary gear sets are negative planetary gears.--

Claim 29:

- Line 3, “or” has been amended as --and--.

Claim 33:

- Line 2, “one of” has been amended as --three of--.

Claim 34:

Claim 34 has been rewritten as:

--The multi-step reduction gear transmission according to claim 33, wherein the fourth clutch and the second brake are used as shifting elements for starting the multi-step reduction gear transmission.--

Claim 39:

Claim 39 has been rewritten as:

--The multi-step reduction gear transmission according to claim 22, wherein at least one of the six shifting elements is a load-shifting clutch, and at least one of the six shifting elements is a load-shifting brake.--

Claim 41:

Claim 41 has been rewritten as:

--The multi-step reduction gear transmission according to claim 22, wherein at least one of the six shifting elements is a form-locking brake, and at least one of the six shifting elements is a form-locking clutch.--

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 22-42 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 22:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a multi-step reduction gear transmission comprising a drive shaft, an output shaft, three planetary gear sets, seven rotating shafts, four clutches, and two brakes, as recited in the claim, specifically, wherein the combination of the unique arrangement of the multi-step reduction gear transmission and the selective engagements of the four clutches and two brakes provides seven forward gear ratios and one reverse gear ratio.

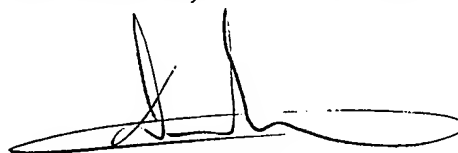
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David D. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7092. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (0700-1530).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David D. Le', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David D. Le
Examiner
Art Unit 3681
12/08/06

ddl